

Park Board Minutes
May 17, 2011

Members Present: Larry Wilson, Candy Sullinger, Kent Vanderpool, Bob Simmons, Julie Wolfe, Jeff Justus, and Kenny Garrison

Members Absent: Gabe Miller, Florence Parnell, and Mica Farley

Staff Present: Cindy Shook, Holly Mullen, Marsha Fulton

Guest: Sam Clanton with Hometown Radio

Julie Wolfe made a motion to approve the Park Board minutes from April 24, 2011. Jeff Justus seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Business:

1. The meeting was called to order by Candy Sullinger at which point Candy re-introduced the newest member of the Park Board, Larry Wilson. Candy then directed everyone's attention to the first item on the agenda, the financial report. Cindy explained that revenue is up \$22,000 overall while the expenses are up \$8,000. Cindy then stated that after last months' board meeting they had done some more investigation into the increase in the electricity expenses and that the campground's increase was due to a 13.4% increase in rates by Empire Electric as well as the addition of the new air conditioner. Julie Wolfe then asked if the expense of the concrete pads at the campground were included in the increased expenses and Cindy responded that those expenses are capital improvements and would not show up in the operating budget.
2. Next item on the agenda was the John Morris contract update. Cindy stated that she had spoken with the City Clerk's office and that in fact that was a wording error in the contract, confirming that Jeff Justus had been correct in his observation at the last Park Board meeting. Cindy concluded this item by saying that the correction had already been made to the contract.
3. The next item on the agenda was the Skaggs lease agreement addendum. Cindy stated that she wanted to give an update on the lease agreement that was voted on by the Park Board at the last meeting. Cindy stated that she had taken that agreement before the Board of Aldermen for their approval, and that it had in fact not been approved. Cindy explained that Alderman Mike Booth had concern about the length of the agreement and the fact that the City was locking us in for five years. Cindy reported that it was her understanding that the City Administrator had spoken with Skaggs CEO William Mahoney about Alderman Booth's concern and that they had discussed adding a six month out clause to the agreement with Skaggs having the first right of refusal. Bob Simmons explained that he had not been part of the discussion at the Board of Alderman meeting due to the fact that he and the Mayor had excused themselves from the discussion as they sit on the Skaggs Board of Directors. Kent Vanderpool asked about the term on the prior contract. Cindy explained that the original contract was for five years with three, three year additional options. Cindy then went on to say that she anticipated that new agreement would be approved.
4. Next on the agenda was the flooding update. Before opening the discussion on this item Cindy took the opportunity to introduce Holly Mullen the newest intern to the Parks department. Cindy then went on to discuss the recent flooding of the parks. Cindy stated that the recovery at Stockstill Park had gone well and was the fastest that she had ever experienced. The park was closed for a period of 20 days in which time the fields were re-graded, fences repaired, debris and contaminated playground mulch removed and concrete work completed. Additionally, the volunteer clean-up day at the park was a huge success. Cindy stated that there was nothing like having a lot of hands

out in the outfields picking up all the rocks deposited from the creek. Cindy expressed her appreciation for assistance from the Public Works department in the recovery efforts, including the exceptional concrete work done by a new seasonal employee of theirs. Cindy stated that they did not just fix things, that they improved them. Regarding the campground, Cindy said that it reopened on May 3 after being closed for 8 days. Cindy explained that Table Rock Asphalt had saved the city a lot of time and money by taking the mud and debris piles and saving the City from having to haul it off-site. Additionally, Cindy told the board that they had brought in over 100 tons of base rock to re-grade sites close to the lake. The main electrical breakers as well as the pedestal breakers had to be replaced due to the length of time the park was submerged. Cindy then added that the new concrete pads had fared very well; needing only to be hosed off and they were ready to go. The office did not fare as well and currently the campground was using a rented portable construction office. Cindy added that she would like to see about purchasing a trailer to use as an office permanently so this type of loss could be mitigated all together in the future. Cindy stated that the loss of revenue was around \$34,000, which included the large Monoco rally and a smaller rally that were scheduled. Five long term campers have also moved to other parks and unless they return we could see the loss increase by an additional \$40,000. The Monaco people indicated that they would probably not return in the future due to the threat of flooding in the spring. Rounding out the rest of the parks, Cindy explained that North Beach Park had lots of mud and sediment deposited on the walking path. Alexander Park has damage to the fields and some fence damage. The water in Sunset Park has receded and there are large tree limbs to clean up. The golf course has had failures in both the irrigation pumps due to prolonged submersion and we are seeking bids for those repairs.

At this point, Kenny Garrison asked if this wouldn't be a good time to resurrect conversation about the purchase of the land next to the RecPlex due to the flooding on the ball fields at Stockstill Park. Bob Simmons agreed that he thought it should be brought up and possibly the situation as to the property may have changed. Cindy concluded by saying that she could speak to the City Administrator in regards to the land.

5. The next item on the agenda was the park tour. Cindy explained that she would like to schedule the yearly park tour at next month's board meeting. In addition, she hopes to have received the ADA park surveys back so that we could discuss them during the tour as well as potential capital projects. Candy added that she thought it would be a good time to go.

6. Next on the agenda were the FYI items and the recreation report, in which there were no questions.

Member's Reports

Candy explained to Larry that this was the point in the meeting for the board to share any concerns or questions they have with the board. Additionally, Candy took this opportunity to again welcome Larry Wilson to the Park Board.

1. Jeff Justus wanted to let the department know about the amount of dead trees and brush that he felt need to be cleared at Lakeside Forest. Jeff stated that he felt Lakeside could be a legacy left for Branson, and that by clearing and cleaning up of the forest that it would allow for more tree growth on the property. Cindy indicated that in the past the policy had been that if a tree was lying on the ground that it was left for animal habitat. Cindy went on to say that she knew that there were differences in philosophies as to whether we should clear out small trees and underbrush or to allow

it stay in a more “natural” state. Bob Simmons added that the Conservation Department or College of the Ozarks may be a good source of advice on how to perpetuate a good forest. Jeff stated that he is not saying that the city has to do the labor, but that they would need to take the lead.

2. Bob Simmons said he had observed the walking trail from the hospital to Stockstill Park and that it had very little damage and was in great shape within days.

3. Kenny Garrison invited the Park Board down to the t-ball field to enjoy the evening with his 5-6 year old t-ball team.

Meeting adjourned 6:05